LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7200 NOTE PREPARED: Jan 12, 2007

BILL NUMBER: HB 1716 BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Civil Rights.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Bardon BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL IMPACT: State & Local

 $\overline{\underline{X}}$ DEDICATED FEDERAL

<u>Summary of Legislation:</u> This bill extends antidiscrimination and civil rights statutes to include prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, and ancestry. The bill makes a technical correction to a definition.

Effective Date: July 1, 2007.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Civil Rights Commission:* The bill adds sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, and ancestry to the types of discrimination claims undertaken by the state's Civil Rights Commission. The Civil Rights Commission may investigate discrimination claims, award back wages, and institute administrative changes within an offending entity. Expanding the jurisdiction of the Civil Rights Commission to include discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, and ancestry will likely increase the Commission's workload. The proposal's ultimate impact on the Commission will depend on the number of cases initiated at the Commission.

Any funds and resources required by the Commission could be supplied through a variety of sources, including: (1) existing resources not currently being used to capacity; (2) funds that, otherwise, would be reverted; or (3) new appropriations. As of January 1, 2007, there were 16 personnel vacancies within the Commission valued at approximately \$503,000. Additionally, the Commission reverted \$268,490 in FY 2006. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend upon legislative and administrative actions. This bill does not contain an appropriation.

Explanation of State Revenues: *Penalty Provision:* If extending antidiscrimination and civil rights statutes to include prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, and

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ancestry results in additional court cases and more fines being collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund (from fines) and the state General Fund (from court fees) would increase. However, any additional revenue would likely be small.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

<u>Explanation of Local Revenues:</u> *Penalty Provision:* If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from court fees. However, any change in revenue would likely be small.

State Agencies Affected: All; Civil Right's Commission.

<u>Local Agencies Affected:</u> All; Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

Information Sources:

Fiscal Analyst: Adam Brown, 317-232-9854.

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